

# Human Services Transportation Plan Steering Committee Meeting

## Tuesday, October 13, 2020 – 12:00 PM

Virtual meeting via GoToMeeting

### Meeting Minutes

#### Welcome, Introductions, & Roll Call

Reema Abi-Akar called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

RURAL AREA SUBCOMMITTEE				
Name	Organization	Representing	Present	Absent
Shelly Entrekin*	FCRC/FCRT	Fulton	X	
Barb Long*				X
Doug Manock*	Fulton County Board	Fulton		X
Audra Miles*	Fulton County PCOM			X
Mark Rudolph	KCCDD	Knox	X	
Kraig McCluskie	Galesburg Transit	Knox		X
Diana Bradstatter	Marshall-Stark PCOM	Marshall		X
Debbie Daykin	Marshall County Board	Marshall		X
Mary Patton	AARP	Peoria	X	
Andrew Dwyer	GPMTD - CountyLink	Peoria	X	
Traci Dowell	MSW Projects	Stark	X	
J. Thomas Howes	Stark County Board	Stark		X
Brandon Hovey	Tazewell County Board	Tazewell		X
Mary Jo Holford	Tazewell County Board	Tazewell		X
Tyler Rogers	ADDWC	Woodford		X
Lee Linwood	We Care	Woodford		X
URBAN AREA SUBCOMMITTEE				
Dawn Harper	EP!C	Agency		X
Adam Duvall	Advocates for Access	CIL	X	
Angel Marinich	CityLink	Provider		X
Renee Razo	Central Illinois Agency on Aging	Agency	X	
Chris Mitchell	Paratransit user	User		X
Don Rulis	CWTC	Agency		X
Greg Cassidy	TCRC	Agency		X

\* = shared seat

#### Also in attendance:

Hannah Martin, TCRPC  
 Brian Hiatt, MV Transit  
 Mick Johnson, MV Transit  
 Jacob Irish, WIAA  
 Ellen Larsen, VNA Galesburg  
 Pamelyn Usher, City of Galesburg

Audrey Barret, Snyder Village  
 Ryan Berger, City of Galesburg  
 Bailey O'Connor, Advocates for Access  
 Jeannine McAllister, Advocates for Access  
 Doug Roelfs, GPMTD

## **Public Comment**

None.

## **Approval of the August 4, 2020 Minutes**

Since there is no quorum, the August 4, 2020 minutes could not be approved. Shelly Entrekin reiterated that FCRT should be listed rather than FCRC on the December minutes. The approval of these minutes was tabled until the next meeting with a quorum.

## **Provider and Agency Updates**

### ***FCRT/FCRC***

Shelly Entrekin did not have any updates.

### ***City of Galesburg***

Ryan mentioned that Pam is the new transit manager and they are excited to have her here.

### ***AARP***

Mary Patton reported that AARP has been busy working on the census and making sure people fill it out. She also mentioned working on helping pass the graduated income tax.

Mary Patton asked if telehealth is affecting the number of rides. Andy Dwyer said that ridership has fluctuated over the course of the pandemic. He mentioned that facilities are beginning to open now more than they used to. Other stores have opened, and buses have been busier than ever since there are capacity limitations. Renee Razo said that over time, their numbers have increased lately as locations are opening. But she said that people who are still taking transit are those who do not have a computer or any telehealth alternative.

### ***CityLink***

Andy Dwyer reported that CityLink is progressing through their computer aided dispatch system, which he is hoping will be live in early 2021. This will incorporate a way for users to call to learn about route data for fixed routes.

Andy also mentioned that Greater Peoria Mass Transit District is still pushing towards a new building. He said that the planning phases for an administrative building are under way, since theirs is one of the oldest in the state. He said GPMTD is working on securing funding, then they will start the process of breaking ground and building it.

Finally, Andy noted that the transit center is still closed to the public, and CityLink is still operating under a free fare platform.

### ***CityLift/CountyLink***

Andy reported that Angel has left the fixed route side, and she will be the new general manager for the rural and paratransit side. He said she used to be in this position in the past.

GPMTD selected Transdev as the new rural and paratransit provider; their contract starts December 1<sup>st</sup>. Andy said that riders will not see much of an impact. Andy thanked Brian Hiatt and Mick Johnson, who have been extremely helpful during this process and in the past with CityLift and CountyLink.

Andy reported that their paratransit software will change on December 1<sup>st</sup> to Ecolane. He said that this will be used for mobile fare collection, through an app, and will possibly have a platform for social service organizations to schedule and monitor trips. Andy and his team have been working with Supreme Radio and Motorola for updates including an incident channel for emergency communication.

Andy mentioned that GPMTD has tabulated the results of a microtransit survey. He said these will be brought to their board to study the first and last mile underserved areas. On-demand items like scooters, bike shares, and other options will be explored. Andy is expecting there to be a survey about this study in mid-spring of 2021.

Finally, Andy introduced the grey area study that GPMTD is collaborating with TCRPC on. There will be a public event next Wednesday about this study, aimed at areas that aren't served by traditional transit and paratransit services in the region.

#### ***MSW Projects***

Traci Dowell had no updates regarding MSW Projects.

#### ***Advocates for Access***

Adam Duvall had nothing new to report for Advocates for Access. Bailey O'Connor introduced himself as the Youth Coordinator for Advocates for Access.

#### ***Central Illinois Agency on Aging***

Renee Razo had nothing new to report for CIAOA.

#### ***KCCDD***

Mark Rudolph reported that they are experiencing some issues with COVID due to an exposure. However, they are anticipating a fall delivery of new vehicles.

#### ***HSTP Coordinator Report***

Reema reported that regarding the census, the final deadline is October 31<sup>st</sup>. She said that Tri-County had received a grant from the state and is acting as the middleman to distribute these dollars to local organizations and agencies. These entities have used the dollars for marketing, outreach, and questionnaire assistance.

Reema discussed the Hanna City Trail, which is an old railroad line that is still owned by Union Pacific Railroad. Peoria County, Farmington, and the Village of Hanna City are working to approve the purchase of this land. This will be a multi-use trail if it is purchased under the public ownership.

### **Grey Area Study Update**

Hannah gave an update regarding the grey area project. She said there will be two virtual open house sessions to gain public engagement. Lochmueller group, which is the consultant working on this effort, has outlined demographic information, completed stakeholder interviews, and laid out existing services in the area.

Hannah said they want more information about how to best cater to the populations in the area. For this reason, there will be two opportunities for the public to comment in a public workshop, one on Wednesday, October 21 at noon, and the other on the same day at 6:00 p.m. There are places to register to the sessions on Facebook and via email. Hannah mentioned that the project is at about the halfway point.

### **Approval of New Bylaws**

Since there is no quorum, these bylaws cannot be approved at this meeting, but Reema reiterated the changes that have been suggested. Attendance requirements has been clarified, with unexcused and excused absences to ensure more meetings in the future meet quorums. Reema also mentioned the ability for members to nominate and vote on a chair or vice chair. That would allow the group to govern itself in the future. Hannah also noted that members would know better regarding the creation of an agenda with more topical and relevant discussion points.

### **Discussion of HSTP Region 5 Plan Document Update**

Hannah said that Tri-County has just finished updating its Long-Range Transportation Plan in the spring, which includes numerous transportation issues in the region. Now, staff is also working to update the Human Services Transportation Plan document. She said that staff has updated all demographic information in the plan, the geographic study area, and general language to describe current situations that have changed since the 2016 version.

Staff will soon send out a survey regarding major trip destinations in the region, and they are working to update the goals, objectives, and major issues that the group would like to include. Hannah said that historically, there has not been much flexibility with funding to implement services. But there are other funding sources to go after, at least to begin some projects and get the ball rolling. She said that working simultaneously with the grey area study shows areas that need to be focused on.

Hannah said that this document needs to be updated by March, and the months leading up to that will require more public input.

### **Other**

Hannah said that she will be leaving Tri-County at the end of the month. Reema will remain the HSTP coordinator, and Tri-County will be hiring at least one more planner to take Hannah's place in the future. Hannah said she will be taking an engineering position with the City of

Pekin, and she will keep the perspective of improving ADA infrastructure in the region. Hannah said she has been with Tri-County for about five years at this point.

Brian Hiatt also said that this will be his last meeting with the HSTP committee, and he has been around about as long as Hannah. He said he is looking towards Decatur and Minnesota in the future.

Reema said that the December meeting will be one week later than usual, on December 8<sup>th</sup> at noon.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.